bypasses and bridges in proposed as under:

(i) Conversion of existing two lane National Highway Sections into four lane facility.

(ii) All bridges costing more than Rs. 100 lakh each completed and opened to traffic after 1st May, 1992 but before 4th December, 2001 and all bridges costing more than Rs. 500 lakh each completed on or after 4th December, 2001.

(iii) All four lane projects, bridges and bypasses taken up on BOT.

(c) Since most of the projects proposed for levy of user fee are under implementation, it is top early to estimate the additionalincome from user fee. During' 2001-2002 (upto Feb. 2002), an amount of Rs. 115.58 crore was collected from user fee on National Highway projects excluding projects taken up on BOT for which user fee is retained by the entrepreneur.

(d) Toll collected on bridges is ploughed back for development of National Highways in the State.

Construction work on NH between Mohania and Sasaram

†4649. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ongoing construction work 45 kilometer stretch of National Highway in Bihar between Mohania and Sasaram has been suspended due to some reasons;

(b) if so, which authority was entrusted with the responsibility of the said construction; and

(c) the reasons for suspension of the construction work at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. .(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) No, Sir. The construction work on 45 kilometer

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

stretch between Mohania and Sasaram on National Highway-2 in Bihar is being carried out by the Contractor, M/s LG Engineering & Construction.

Special package to SSI

4650. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be leased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lot of small scale industries in and around Delhi and other parts of the country have been closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our small scale industry is till-equipped and not fully geared to compete with the onslaught of cheap imports; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive special package to small scale industries to enable them, to tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are reports from a number of institutions including SSI Associations about the closure of several Small Scale Industries in and around Delhi and other parts of the country due to various reasons including globalisation and general industrial slowdown. The information on closed units is, however, not maintained centrally but the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial Banks. As per the RBI, the number of sick SSI Units in the country during last three years has been as under:

As at the end of March	No. of sick SSI units
1999	306221
2000	304235
2001	249630

(b) The main reasons for sickness/closure are inadequacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies etc.